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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JUNE 7TH, 1907

For weeks past the English papers have been full of allusions to the visit to King Edward of Emperor Meiji's relative and representative, Prince Fushimi. None can doubt the enthusiastic nature of the welcome extended to the distinguished representative of our Allies, and it is a little unfortunate that anything should have occurred to blight that cordiality. But the withdrawal from the British stage of the popular comic opera "The Mikado", withdrawn for fear of causing offence to the nation's guests, was seized upon by the papers as a subject for complaint, and announcements on the intelligence of the official respect. As a property valued at £10,000, Mr. W. S. Gilbert, the librettist, and Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, the lessee of the stage rights, naturally have ground for complaint at its enforced closure; but when permission is again accorded, as it surely will be, they will find their compensation in the remarkably effective advertisement the piece has had. Led by most of the journals of the country, the public resented the arbitrary and, as it is generally contended, the unreasonable action of the Lord Chamberlain, and the leading Japanese residents in London hastened to assure them that the public performance of the amusing burlesque was not objected to by them. We quote here one of the best letters that has appeared on the subject, although others have wittily recommended the compulsory withdrawal of "Hamlet" on the ground that it may offend Denmark, and so on:

Sir.—The relations of the Lord Chamberlain's office towards the theatre in this country seem to grow every year more ludicrous. Hitherto its blunders have been most conspicuous when interfering in the sphere of morality—as, for example, when a licence which was refused to plays by Ibsen, Maeterlinck, and Ibsen was granted to *Education du Prince*. But its exploits in the political sphere seem likely to equal even these in folly. The withdrawal of the licence to perform *The Mikado* is just one of those instances of tactlessness which in no one despair of officials. It was meant, of course, as a piece of courtesy and deference to Japan. Properly considered, it is nothing less than an insult to that great people. The Japanese are our allies. We respect and admire them for the splendid fighting qualities displayed during the late war, and for their no less splendid qualities of self-restraint and resolution before and after it. Yet the Lord Chamberlain treats them as if they were children or barbarians! If the Japanese, instead of being an Oriental race, were a European Power, does anybody suppose that a comic opera about a country which 20 years ago and performed since then in every country in the civilized world, including their own, would be suppressed because one of their Princes was visiting London? To imagine such a thing is preposterous. But the Prince is a Japanese Prince, and so the Lord Chamberlain thinks it courteous to make allowances for the fact and treat his countrymen as on a different footing from other civilized nations. Forgetting (I must suppose) that he himself is a member of the old-fashioned attitude towards the Japanese as "that funny little people, so quaint, you know!" and adopting a course of action which he would never have dreamed of adopting in the case of Germany or France or any Western nation, I protest against this "funny little people" attitude being adopted at this time of day towards a nation that has proved itself one of the most gallant and self-sufficient on the face of the earth. I protest against a nation with the splendid intellectual grip and clearness of the Japanese being treated as children. Most of all I protest against our behaving in this way and imagining that it is a courtesy. On the contrary, it is an indignity. To suppose that the Japanese are still smarting (if they ever smarted, which I question) under a joke originally made 20 years ago, and that they now desire its forcible suppression, is to deny them all intelligence and all sense of humour. But we know, as a matter of fact, that they have made no such request. The withdrawal of the licence of *The Mikado* is another signal instance of folly and unjustifiable interference on the part of the Lord Chamberlain's office with the theatre in this country. I sincerely hope that pressure will be exercised to secure the immediate cancellation of that withdrawal before we find ourselves the laughing stock of Europe. I am, Sir, ST. JOHN HANLIN. Saville Club, May 5th.

As we have remarked, the Japanese themselves have disclaimed any responsibility for the Lord Chamberlain's act, and we believe the incident must have been a cause of some pain to them. Either as guest or host, the Japanese gentleman is the perfection of real courtesy, and whatever he may think, no expression likely to ruff the composure of his host or guest is ever permitted to escape. The fuss that our contemporaries have been making appears to us on a par with the conduct of the ill-bred hostess who reprimands her servants before her guests. It would have been better to wait until Prince Fushimi had gone. However, we can trust our Allies to assess the incident at no more than its true importance, especially as in all other ways the nation did its best to repay them for the exceptional welcome extended in Japan to Prince Arthur and his suite. In the drive to Buckingham Palace the Imperial guest was escorted by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, and Prince Arthur. The Japanese Ambassador and Admiral Yamamoto in the second carriage had the distinguished company of the Earl of Sefton and Lord Roberts. Sir Edward Seymour, Admiral of the Fleet, escorted General Nishi, and so on. The nation's best went personally to look after its Allies' best. It is a source of gratification to those who recognise its importance to note that, remarkably as the Japanese went out of their way to do honour to the King's envoy, their courtesy was amply returned. In the friendly rivalry of the high politeness, England was not outdone.

The addition of three more plague cases yesterday makes the total at date 71.

Mr. Mikichichi Ijima has been appointed Counsellor to the Japanese Embassy in London.

Boxer quotes the betting for the day before the Derby was run, as follows: 6 to 4 on Steve Gallion, 15 to 2 against Orby, 9 to 1 against Bezonian, 10 to 1 against Woodwinder, 40 to 1 against Barlow.

A paunch coolie employed at the R. G. A. barracks was yesterday sentenced by Mr. Hazland to fourteen days' hard labour for stealing bread from No. 4 Mess.

The King of Portugal has accepted the invitation of President Perna to visit Rio de Janeiro next year on the occasion of the celebration of the centenary of the opening of the Brazilian ports to commerce.

A reader kindly sends us a cutting from the *Pall Mall Gazette* with a sort of burlesque essay on Chinese poetry by Frank Richardson, Mr. Richardson is one of London's newest of new humanists, and we have not yet acquired sufficient admiration for his peculiar talent.

A fitter employed at Quarry Bay shipyard was charged at the Magistrate's court yesterday with doing grievous bodily harm to a boilermaker, whom it was alleged he attacked with two choppers. As the injured man will not be out of hospital for a few days the case was remanded till Monday.

The final in the billiard competition for the "Carnichael" Cup will be played off on Saturday night at 8 o'clock at the Kowloon Dock.

Mr. A. J. Basto, Jr. (son of Mr. Basto of Macao) has passed his final examination, and obtained his diploma as Barrister-at-law. The Portuguese community of this Colony will be proud of their compatriot, as he is the first Portuguese in the Far East to succeed in being called to the British Bar. He is expected soon from London, and will probably present himself at the Hongkong Supreme Court shortly after his arrival.

A solid basis for a Fisheries Convention between Japan and Russia has at last been established congruently with the Portsmouth Treaty and the rights and obligations of the two contracting Powers have been defined to the entire satisfaction of each. Therefore in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs a preliminary protocol was signed binding the respective Governments to ratify the Fisheries Convention on this basis as soon as the clauses are definitively formulated.

The Duke of Argyll last month laid the memorial stone of new buildings in Glasgow of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland. Mr. James Gilchrist, the president, said the institution had just reached its jubilee. It was started with a membership of 127, which number had now grown to nearly 1,500. The Duke of Argyll, in laying the memorial stone, expressed the hope that the new buildings would prove a nerve and brain centre to assist in increasing the commerce and prosperity of Glasgow.

The "Rules and Programmes" of the Army Rifle Association for 1907 includes also the gist of the observations in the nature of a report made by the chairman of committees the commandant of the School of Musketry, at the last general meeting. These observations record a satisfactory state of affairs; for as every regiment of cavalry and battalion of infantry has subscribed, the individual membership rose from 3,857 in 1905 to 4,229 in 1906. 17 more officers have become life members, and for the first time in the history of the association, the annual amount accruing in respect of individual subscriptions exceeds £1,000, and the reserve fund exceeds £1,000 also.

THE COMMISSION.

THE P.C.M.'S REMINDER.

Yesterday the members of the Legislative Council were put in possession of copies of a Minute by Dr. Atkinson, the Principal Civil Medical Officer, dealing with the report of the Sanitary Commission.

Dr. Atkinson notes that during his absence in 1906 a popular agitation was made against the Government on account of continuance of the plague, and because several Europeans were attacked that year. A great bid was made then for a Municipal Council. In the winter of 1912 a general cleaning of the city was effected, and the sanitary staff increased. The co-operation of the Chinese was solicited. Plague still continued. At much less cost, cleaning has gone on since, with excellent results, particularly a marked diminution in the average number of plague cases during 1904-05-06, as compared with the previous three years. The increase in 1906 he attributes to water scarcity interfering with cleansing.

The Commission's report as a whole, Dr. Atkinson calls "unjudicial in tone." It has "vague sweeping and serious findings" unsupported by the evidence. "It is not so much what is said as what is inferred that I consider unfair." Some inspectors had sinned, but it was unfair to brand the whole body, which contains, he is pleased to testify, "many straight forward and trustworthy men." He comments that "over and over again distinctly leading questions" were put to witnesses. "Dumping" was in vogue before the plague came. It is not a fact that rat-catching is a life has been almost left to their own free will—foremen and inspectors have always supervised. The Commission does not understand the Government method of controlling expenditure. Proper books were kept. It was absurd to suggest that he ever slighted the Sanitary Board, and he does not know "what is meant by ignoring the status of the Secretary" (para 331). "This reference to the one-man system, and indeed the whole paragraph is simply another way of stating the opinion of the Commissioners that there should be a Municipality."

"Shortly after my return to the Colony in 1901 I wrote in to the Government and strongly recommended that the Sanitary Board be abolished and a Sanitary Department be appointed and I am still of the opinion either that this should be done or that a Municipality should undertake the Sanitary Administration of the Colony. I doubt very much, however, whether there are a sufficient number of public spirited citizens who have the interests of the Colony sufficiently at heart to undertake this."

In conclusion, Dr. Atkinson, who comments on many other paragraphs, states that since his return to the Colony the work of the Medical Department has increased so much that he feels he cannot with justice to himself continue to undertake in future the administration of two such large departments as the Medical and Sanitary.

SEIZURE OF AMMUNITION.

ASSUMED TO BE FOR THE REBELS.

Yesterday Mr. Hazland at the Magistrate's court was called upon to deal with a Chinaman who was found in possession of 20 rounds of ammunition. This was discovered on the wharf of the Canton Macao Steamboat Company, where it was ready for shipment, presumably to the rebels. A fine of \$250 was imposed, the alternative being three months' hard labour.

TELEGRAMS.

["DAILY PRESS" EXCLUSIVE SERVICE.]

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

LONDON, June 6th.
The King and Queen are to visit Ireland in July.

BARBARY SMUGGLERS.

LONDON, June 6th.
Smuggler captured by a destroyer off Tunis coast. Seventy killed.

AMERICA AND JAPAN.

TOKYO, June 6th.

The San Francisco situation dominates the Japanese press. Count Okuma has been invited by the New York *World* to express his views and has telegraphed an answer to the following effect. The later developments at San Francisco were not in accord with the spirit of President Roosevelt's December message. Such outrages imperil the friendliness of the two nations and he appeals to the American public to promptly discontinue their boxer-like conduct.

It is reported that Washington is surprised at the tone of the Japanese public opinion and it is believed that if Japan published the official documents relating to the various negotiations opinion in Japan would undergo a change.

The Tokyo press has long advocated the publication of these documents.

[REUTERS SERVICE.]

THE BRITISH ARMY.

LONDON, June 4th.
An Army Order increases the pay of Lieutenant Colonels of Cavalry of the Line by 3/- per day, of Infantry and Field Artillery by 5/- per day and of the Garrison Artillery by 1/6 per day.

[N.O. Daily News Service.]

PLAGUE IN JAPAN.

TOKYO, May 30th.

Plague is on the increase at Yokohama.

A TOKYO VIEW.

TOKYO, May 30th.
A Tokyo paper states that if an outrage similar to the recent attacks on Japanese in San Francisco had occurred to Americans in China, the United States would already have had men-of-war on their way to China.

FAMINE RELIEF.

CHINKIANG, May 30th.
The U.S. transport *Buford* with 2,000 tons of American flour on board sent by the *Christian Herald* for famine relief arrived at Chinkiang to-day at 11 a.m. Her cargo is being rapidly transferred to Chinese boats for shipment to the famine area. Chinese officials are furnishing boats and co-operating heartily.

A CHINESE VESSEL ASHORE.

TOKYO, May 31st.
The steamer *Kwantung* (2,648 tons), owned by a Chinese in Kobe, is ashore in Kii Province. The crew and cargo are safe and it is hoped to refloat her.

LOOKING FOR A HOME.

An amusing discussion was reported to Mr. Orme at the Magistrate's yesterday. Chan Yan was charged with being in possession of a piece of pig iron and also with being a rogue and a vagabond. He was seen walking along Temple Street at late at night by a policeman who asked him where he was going. "Going home," he answered. The question which next suggested itself to the policeman was "where is your home?" to which the expected reply came "I haven't found any yet." "Have you got any money?" continued the interrogator, and then the Chinaman becoming annoyed, told him not to ask silly questions. "I would not be here," he added, "if I had any. Besides I have only been here four days and you don't expect me to get money so quickly." He was sentenced to 28 days' hard labour.

POLO ON DONKEYS.

The *Spectator* notices that in summarising Major Wilson's report on the province of Sennar in the Sudan, Lord Comer remarks that the "following observation is characteristic of British administration." Major Wilson writes: "A disadvantage was taken of the presence of numerous head sheikhs at the Cotton Show to initiate them into the game of polo on donkeys. Matches were played between teams of sheikhs, who took to the game in an extraordinary manner." It seems to us, remarks our contemporary, that Major Wilson by his bold experiment with the sheikhs may have unconsciously produced a world wide result. Polo on donkeys would be an admirable new sport for elderly men of action for whom real polo has become too dangerous. We also recommend donkey polo to enterprising hostesses in country houses anxious to find amusement for their guests. Most mining villages, as well as most seaside resorts, ought easily to be able to produce eight donkeys to make a beginning. While country houses in Kent and Essex would have the whole of the outer donkeys of the East End to draw upon. We wonder whether the donkeys soon get keen on the game like ponies, and learn to follow the ball. Also, do their ears get in the way.

SUPREME COURT.

Tuesday, June 6th.
IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FRANCIS PROGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A DISPUTED MORTGAGE.

His Lordship decided on some of the preliminary points in the application brought on last week to set aside a deed of mortgage. The parties were Long Kee of the firm of Messrs. Fook Wo Chong, merchants carrying on business at 36, Wing Lok Street and Ng Wai, merchant, carrying on business in Hongkong. The Hon. Mr. J. E. Pollock, K.C., and Mr. H. G. Calhoun (instructed by Mr. A. G. Jackson of Messrs. Johnson Stokes and Master) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. M. W. Slade (instructed by Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton) represented the defendant.

His Lordship said:—The agreement to engage the compradore, signed immediately after the mortgage which was given as security for the compradore's due performance of his duties, and the fulfilment of his liabilities as such, should on general principles I think be construed, as far as necessary and possible as one document with the mortgage security, for the mortgage contains an annexed summary of those duties and liabilities. I do not think this general principle is affected by the fact that the agreement is made use of for the purpose of completing the security by the deposit of \$21,000 cash, which deposit, it is to be observed, was made by the mortgagor. But in the case of the twelfth clause of the agreement the reference to losses resulting from sales, etc., seems clearly to refer to the losses which are specially mentioned in the clause of the mortgage which makes the compradore liable to pay such losses. I am therefore of opinion that clause 12 of the agreement governs the liability clauses of the mortgage in the matters to which it refers. With regard to the mortgagor's power of sale I confess I have some difficulty, as although it must be a point of practice frequently arising, the standard books do not throw too much light on it. The nearest case I can find to the present is *Rhodes v. Atkinson* (16 L. C. R. 212). It is not on all fours, but I think it will guide me, I hope, a correct decision. I think in such a case as the present the mortgagor has clearly a right to redeem, and therefore to the amount, equity and inspection which I have given him. The consequence of this essentially is that the power of sale is in suspense till the equity is complete. The mortgagor, however, as I understand, does not intend to press the sale, of which he has given the mortgagor notice, and therefore I will not go into the question whether, and on what terms, I should restrain its going forward. The mortgagor asks however for an express declaration in the decree that his power of sale is not affected by it. I do not think this necessary because it is the direct result of the decree for redemption which is that the action stands dismissed if the equity is not conducted within the time fixed. If the action for redemption is dismissed the power of sale must revert.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.
BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

SETTLED.

The action was set down in which Messrs. Sennet Freres, of Queen's Road Central, sued James Roberts of Hongkong, for the recovery of the sum of \$180, being the balance due by defendant to the plaintiff firm for a diamond ring sold and delivered by that firm to the defendant. Before the case was called, the solicitors concerned had a consultation after which his Honour took the case in chambers, judgment being subsequently entered for plaintiffs for half the amount, \$90.

A WORLD REFORMER.

The arch-enemy of "intemperance, impurity, gambling, and sabbath breaking" has reached Hongkong. He is the Rev. Wilbur F. Crafts, Ph. D. Superintendent of the International Reform Bureau of Washington, U.S.A. He and Mrs. Crafts have gone to Canton, but are returning on Monday to meet missionaries and others at the Y.M.C.A. at 5.15. They leave for Australia on the 14th inst. Just now they are waging an anti-opium fight.

TO CHECK "DUMPING."

One of our readers, who has ignored the rule requiring all letters to be ante-noticed sends us a letter with suggestions to check "dumping." He proposes that a heavy penalty should follow all convictions of persons responsible, and that to secure convictions a reward of \$500 should be offered for denunciations of "dumpers." If photographs of all dumped bodies were taken and exposed, he thinks that the suppression of the practice would be further assured. He says: "If one admits that, even in a crowded Chinese house, a man cannot disappear without someone noticing his absence, and that the latter, by referring to the published photographs, could see if the missing person, had been dumped, it would be surprising if the reward did not elicit the required information."

LATEST STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The *Shanhai* arrived at Victoria B.C. on 4th June.

The *M.M. str. Sydney* with the outward French Mail will leave Saigon on Friday the 7th June at 9 a.m.

The *P. & O. str. Ceylon* left Singapore for this port on the 5th June at 1.30 p.m.

The *Indo-China str. Laong* from Calcutta and the Straits left Singapore for this port on 5th June at 4 p.m.

The *I.G.M. str. Manila* left Sydney on Tuesday the 4th inst. p.m. and may be expected here on or about the 28th June.

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HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 6th instant in the Council Chamber.

PRESENT.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G.
MAJORITY GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD, C.B. A.C.D.
Hon. Mr. A. M. THOMSON, (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Mr. H. J. GOMPERTZ (Attorney-General).
Hon. Mr. C. M. MESSEY, (Colonial Treasurer).
Hon. Mr. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).
Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).
Hon. Mr. P. J. BADELEY (Captain-Superintendent of Police).
Hon. Mr. H. K. M.B., C.M.G.
Hon. Mr. W. Y. YU.
Hon. Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.
Hon. Mr. H. W. OSBORNE.
Hon. Mr. W. OSBORNE.
Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK.
Hon. Mr. G. M. FLETCHER (Clerk of Councils).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

HIS EXCELLENCY appointed the Hon. Mr. H. KESWICK to fill the vacancy on the Public Works Committee caused by the departure of the Hon. Mr. W. J. Gresson.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to lay on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 3), and move its adoption. The only amount involved in the report is the advance on railway construction for the current year.

The following is the resolution which the Finance Committee unanimously agreed to:—

"It is hereby resolved that a sum of Two million four hundred and thirty-eight thousand Dollars (\$2,438,000) be advanced out of Funds in the Custody of the Government for the purposes of construction of the Kowloon-Canton Railway (British Section) during the year 1907."

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

PAPERS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the report of the Standing Law Committee on the Ordinance to amend the Bills of Exchange Ordinance.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, laid on the table the following papers:—Report on the Evening Continuation Classes; report on the Post Office for the year 1906; a minute by the Principal Civil Medical Officer on the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission.

THE RATING ORDINANCE.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY moved the following resolution: Resolved by the Legislative Council that the percentages on the valuation of tenements payable as rates in the undermentioned places be altered from the 1st day of July, 1907, as follows:—

Quarry Bay	From 7% to 8%
Sham Shui Po	7% to 9%
To Kwa Wan	7% to 9%
Ma Tau Wei	7% to 9%
Kowloon City	7% to 9%
Tai Kok Tsui	7% to 10%
Fuk Tsun Hong	7% to 10%
Shaikwan East	9% to 10%
Shaikwan West	9% to 10%
Shaikwan Road	9% to 10%
To Kwa Wan	9% to 10%
Tung Shan Ma Tau	9% to 10%
Sai Wan Ho	9% to 10%
Whitfield	9% to 10%
Tung Lo Wan	9% to 10%
Hoi Kuo	2% to 10%

The differences, as a rule, were on account of the fire brigade, police, lighting and water services.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

THE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

Hon. Mr. H. K. M.B.—I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of Council I will ask the following questions:—

(1) What steps does the Government propose to take, and when, in regard to carrying out the recommendations of the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission?

(2) If the Government does not propose to carry out the recommendations of the Commission in toto, which of such recommendations does the Government propose not to carry out?

(3) Will the Government make a statement of what they propose to do with regard to the recommendations of the Commission?

WANCHAI WATER SUPPLY.

Hon. Mr. H. K. M.B. asked the following questions:—

1. (a) Has the Government received complaints with reference to deficiencies in the supply of water to houses in Wanchai?

(b) If so, has the Government taken any, and what, steps to remedy such deficiencies?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied: A complaint in writing dated the 25th March last, was received from one, Mr. T. Spafford, regarding the inadequacy of the supply of water to his house, No. 12, San Wa Fong. An inspection was at once made, and it was discovered that the rider-main valve had become choked. The valve was cleared on the 25th March. A verbal complaint was made on the 11th May by a Mr. Peterson regarding deficiency of water in San Wa Fong, and, after inspection, it was decided to put in an additional connection from the principal main to the rider-main thus enabling an increased supply to be obtained. The work was completed on the 14th May. A consistent supply was turned on the 17th May, and no further complaints have been received.

PEAK FIRE APPLIANCES.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked:—

2. (a) What Government appliances exist for the extinguishing of fires at the Peak?

(b) Does the Government consider that such appliances are sufficient? If not, what steps does the Government propose to take, and when, to remedy such deficiencies?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE replied:—

2. (a) A fully equipped hose cart is kept at each of the two Police Stations.

(b) Not altogether. Steps are being taken to place a Despatch Box at Mountain View Terrace. But to establish in a rural district like the Peak a satisfactory system of protection against fire would involve large expenditure which the Government is not prepared to undertake.

THREE FOR SHATIN.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked:—

3. Will the Government consider the advisability of planting fir-trees and camphor-trees along and on the Northern slope from the road which runs at the side of the catch-water in the Shatin Valley?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—

Pine trees have been planted in the made ground on the northern slope of the catch-water this year, and pine and camphor trees will be planted along the road in the level ground next year. The bills above-mentioned below the catchwater are also included in the planting programme for next year.

THE COMMISSION.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK asked:—

4. (a) Has the Principal Civil Medical Officer stated in writing to the Government his views with reference to the Report of the Public Health and Building Ordinance Commission?

(b) If so, will the Government lay a copy of the writing containing such views upon the table?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—

4. (a) Yes.

(b) Paper laid on the table.

BRITISH SUBSIDIARY COINS.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked:—

1. Will the Government cause notices to be exhibited at the paying-in counters of the Treasury, Post Office, Harbour Office, Magistrate's Office and other departments; also inserted in Chinese newspapers, informing the Public that British Subsidiary Coins are legal tender up to \$2 in silver and \$1 in copper on each bill; that Government shreds are bound to receive these amounts, and that the Public are not bound to accept more than these amounts, as change?

2. With a view to creating a demand for British Subsidiary Coins, will the Government consider the advisability of increasing the limit to which they are legal tender?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied:—

1. (a) A notice will be sent to Departments accordingly and a notification to the public on the subject of subsidiary coin generally is being considered.

(b) A debtor is bound to tender the exact amount of his debt in legal currency, but there is no objection to adding this to the notification.

2. The suggestion underlying this question is contrary to the accepted economic principles governing the issue of subsidiary coinage.

THE RICKSHA SERVICE.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked:—

3. Will the Government say what steps have been taken towards improving the Ricksha service, in view of what was stated in this Council on 7th June, 1906?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE replied:—

The Government after careful investigation are of the opinion that, owing to the large decrease in the demand for rickshas incident upon the opening of the Electric Tramway, the licenses, if called upon to provide a better type of rickshas, will not have sufficient inducement to carry on their business unless the scale of fares is raised or the license fee is reduced. It is considered that it would not be expedient to make either of these concessions.

It was decided in October last to abolish the restriction on the number of licenses issued and to leave the matter of an improved service to private enterprise. There are grounds for believing that an experimental service of rickshas of an improved type with rubber tyres may shortly be introduced.

GAP ROCK TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION.

Hon. Mr. OSBORNE asked:—

4. Will the Government state how long telegraphic communication with Gap Rock has been interrupted?

5. In view of the approaching typhoon season will the Government take steps to have the cable repaired at an early date?

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS replied:—

(4) Telegraphic communication with Gap Rock has been interrupted since the morning of the 18th September last, when the land line was broken by the typhoon. The cable itself was broken by the typhoon on the 29th September.

(5) A Proposal for establishing a wireless installation is under consideration, pending settlement of which no steps are being taken to repair the cable.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that Council resolve itself into a committee of the whole Council to consider the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Bills of Exchange Ordinance, 1885.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK.

Hon. Mr. KESWICK moved the first reading of a Bill entitled An Ordinance, to authorize the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from time to time to increase the Capital of the said Corporation from the sum of Ten Millions of Dollars to a sum not exceeding the sum of Twenty Millions of Dollars; and to continue incorporated for a

further term of 21 years; and to continue in force for a further period of 21 years the provisions of Section 3 of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ordinance, 1889, with regard to the Excess Issue of Bills and Notes payable to bearer on demand.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to authorize the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Four hundred and seventy-seven thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine Dollars and fifty-three Cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1906.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

VALIDITY OF A JUDGE'S DECISIONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the validity of the proceedings of the Supreme Court of this Colony during the time that ALFRED GASTONE WISE, Esquire, held the office of Puisne Judge of each Court from the 25th day of June, 1902, down to the present time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ORDINANCE.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Married Women's Property Ordinance, 1906.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The Bill was then read a third time, passed, and became law.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Council stands adjourned until this day week.

THE HARBOUR COLLISION.

BETWEEN S.S. "VERONA" AND F.S. "CHOISING".

Following our yesterday's report of the collision between the German steamer *Choising* outward bound, and the German oil steamer *Verona* inward bound, a representative of the *Daily Press* visited the wreck of the former vessel.

A little distance beyond the Naphtha Godown at West Point the *Choising* lies hard by the shore on a rocky and uneven bottom.

her stern and propeller showing above the water line, while her stem is submerged almost to the main deck, and the ship's bell at low tide floats above the water like the bell of the Incheape Rock.

The shore in the vicinity is strewn with hatch covers and masting which formed part of the cargo. Here we might pause to correct an error regarding Captain Simonson. It was stated in a previous report that he was in command of the *Choising* at the time of the collision. This is not so. The Captain had relinquished his post some days previously, being succeeded by Captain Rauffhaus, who has had the misfortune to come to grief in his first command.

Putting off in a sampson to the wreck yesterday, our reporter sought and found Captain Rauffhaus who stated that on Wednesday afternoon, at about fifteen minutes past four o'clock, he cast off from his buoy opposite the China Merchants' wharf, steamed through the two fairway buoys and proceeded through the Sulphur Channel. In front of him was the *Verona*, passing on the other side of Green Island. When he got near her bow, and right side of the Island rounding a bend, and making to cross the channel. As the Captain was of opinion that he could not pass her on that side, he altered his course to port, but the *Verona* kept on as before. When he altered his course to starboard he blew two blasts on his whistle, and on steering further to the left, sounded the whistle twice again. The *Verona*'s whistle was going to starboard, which meant that she was going to starboard, whereas it should have been starboarded.

The last whistle blew too late, and when the Captain saw that a collision was imminent he put his engines full astern. About a minute afterwards, at about 4.36 p.m., the vessels collided.

The *Verona* was travelling about slow, while the *Choising*'s engines indicated full steam ahead, but as steam was not then up, she would not be travelling at her seagoing speed. At the time of collision the *Choising* had a general cargo of 800 tons, and carried about twenty Chinese deck passengers.

Although the *Verona* stood by after the collision she did not lower any boats, so when the Captain found that his ship was making water fast, he started bow being opened up from the dock to the keel, he immediately put out two boats and landed the passengers. Then he beached his ship.

Captain Dobronz, of the *Verona*, stated that on the morning of the collision his vessel had reached port from New York, laden with oil and general cargo, and dropped anchor in the Dangerous Goods anchorage. At four o'clock on the same afternoon the anchor was weighed and the vessel proceeded outside of Green Island to cross the Sulphur Channel, and steam alongside the Standard Oil Company's wharf.

Choising was observed bearing down on the *Verona* steamed slowly for the Hongkong side of the channel. The latter vessel blew one blast, and *Choising* responded with one, which meant that the Captain was to continue on this course. He was therefore surprised when although there was sufficient room for the *Choising* to pass on the Green Island side of the channel, she bore over towards him. It was then that he blew one blast, which meant that he was to stop.

Within a minute the vessels struck, and the *Choising* having speed on, ran aground. After standing by for a time the Captain took his ship to the wharf, where it was found that her bow was slightly damaged, and that she was making water.

LAW REPORT May 3.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

Present: LORD MACNAGHTEN, LORD ATKINSON COLLINS, AND SIR ARTHUR WILSON.

THE TUNG TA BANK AND OTHERS v. THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

This was an appeal from a judgment of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for China and Korea of March 31, 1905.

Mr. Serattion, K.C., Mr. F. D. Mackinnon, and Mr. Drummond appeared for the appellants; Mr. Arthur Cohen, K.C., and Mr. Boydell Houghton for the respondents.

The arguments were heard before the Vacation by a board composed of Lord Macnaghten, Lord Atkinson, and Sir Arthur Wilson, judgment being deferred.

Lord Macnaghten, in delivering their Lordships' judgment last week, said the appellants were Chinese banking companies at Hankow. The respondents, the Chartered Bank, had a branch at Hankow. The plaintiffs claimed as holders for value of promissory notes in the Chinese language "Makalee" in Chinese or "choy" with the name "Makalee" in Chinese upon the bank's stamp.

The Chartered Bank. These notes were issued by the Chinese department of the Hankow branch of the Chartered Bank. There was no point of law involved in the appeal. The question was simply a jury question.

The respondents justified in issuing these promissory notes were in Hankow, and the Chartered Bank was to be inferred from the circumstances of the case that the Chartered Bank had cut out the Chinese department of their branch at Hankow or allowed that department to be held out, as their daily authorized agents for the issue of promissory notes stamped with the Makalee stamp in exchange or in return for money paid in as a loan to the bank? The European staff of the Chartered Bank at Hankow consisted of an agent and an accountant. When the events occurred which gave rise to these suits the agent was Mr. Livingstone, the accountant Mr. Robertson. They held a power of attorney under the seal of the bank, and were invested with the usual powers conferred on bank agents.

Neither Mr. Livingstone nor Mr. Robertson was familiar with Chinese characters or had been five years at Hankow. Mr. Robertson only two. Every other foreign house carrying on business in China, the branch at Hankow employed a "compradore" who managed the native department of the bank. The term "compradore" was thus defined in the *Century Dictionary*:—"In Hongkong and the treaty ports of China a native agent or intermediary employed by a foreign business manager in dealing with the natives and as a general adviser and factotum. The compradore engages and is responsible for all the native employees of the firm. The compradore's office is the native department of the bank. The staff consisted of the compradore, a clerk, Yu Ching Yu, who had been 11 years in the office, and one free or six clerks and bookkeepers. All the business which the Chartered Bank did with the native branch was done in the compradore's office and apparently with Yu Ching Yu. He alone was authorized by the compradore to use the Makalee stamp. With the compradore's market share of the Tung Ta Bank, he might be beyond a nodding acquaintance, and it might be presumed that the market shares of the other native banks with him. The practice as regards the native banks in dealing with the Chartered Bank was described by witnesses in the employment of the Tung Ta Bank. A market share from each native bank visited the European banks every day. Having ascertained before starting the condition of the funds in his own bank, the compradore then visited the European market share, ascertained the value of the bank to whom the visit was paid whether they had money to lend or whether they wanted to borrow.

If his own bank wanted to borrow or borrow, the compradore would then visit the European bank and make a loan to the bank. When he had arranged terms with the European bank, the compradore would then visit the native bank and make a loan to the bank. The compradore's office was the native department of the bank. The staff consisted of the compradore, a clerk, Yu Ching Yu, who had been 11 years in the office, and one free or six clerks and bookkeepers. All the business which the Chartered Bank did with the native branch was done in the compradore's office and apparently with Yu Ching Yu. He alone was authorized by the compradore to use the Makalee stamp. With the compradore's market share of the Tung Ta Bank, he might be beyond a nodding acquaintance, and it might be presumed that the market shares of the other native banks with him. The practice as regards the native banks in dealing with the Chartered Bank was described by witnesses in the employment of the Tung Ta Bank. A market share from each native bank visited the European banks every day. Having ascertained before starting the condition of the funds in his own bank, the compradore then visited the European market share, ascertained the value of the bank to whom the visit was paid whether they had money to lend or whether they wanted to borrow.

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Hong Kong, 1st January, 1977. 793

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NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

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I. AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, £3,000,000

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL, £2,750,000

PAID-UP CAPITAL, £875,000

II. FREE FUNDS, £3,887,250

The Undersigned, AGENTS for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

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TWO VERY VALUABLE PIECES OF LANDED PROPERTY. Situated at CANTON near the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamship Company's Wharf and facing the river. The lots contain by measurement 50 "change" or thereabouts. Title Deeds can be seen at the Office of the Undersecretary. For further particulars, apply to GOLDING & BAILLOW, Solicitors, 10, Queen's Road Central, Hongkong, 22nd May, 1907.

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If your Head aches, if your tongue is coated and your mouth tastes bad, if you feel nauseated on rising, if you are constipated, it means that your stomach is wrong and you need Abbey's Salt.

Nothing so bad for your health as a disordered stomach, nothing so good for a disordered stomach as Abbey's Salt.

Sold in two sizes by all Chemists and Stores, and by Watkins, Ltd., and A. S. Watson, Ltd., Hong Kong. The Abbey Fruit Salt Co., Ltd., 144, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

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Extreme Length... 523 feet

Length on Blocks... 513 "

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Width of Entrance on Spring Tide... 64 "

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Extreme Length... 371 feet

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REFORMING THE LORDS.**A COUNTER-STROKE.**

Two of the great subjects which were mentioned by the Government in the King's speech three months ago as demanding urgent attention were to be discussed in Parliament last month. They are the reform of the House of Lords and the granting of Home Rule to Ireland.

The movement for the reform of the Lords is coming from within the House itself, and the House Rules Bill is concealed under the specious title of the Irish Council Bill.

The first measure aims at removing the excessive hereditary element in the House of Lords, and provides that a hereditary peer shall not receive a summons to legislate for his country unless he has held high political, civil, military, or naval office, or has been twice elected to the House of Commons before succeeding to his peerage, or he has been elected as a representative peer. Lord Newton's Bill also aims at (1) reducing the number of bishops who sit in the House of Lords, (2) approximating more closely to the number of Irish and Scotch electors, and (3) abolishing a hereditary peer, or, if he chooses, to surrender his right to sit in the Lords and stand as a candidate for the House of Commons.

Under the Bill 100 life peers would also be created. Lord Newton's Bill was originally introduced as a sporting proposition solely on that gentleman's own initiative. The Unionist party in the House of Lords has, however, taken notice of it officially, and when Lord Newton has moved his second reading to-day Earl Cairns, on behalf of the Opposition, will move for the appointment of a Select Committee to consider it, with other suggestions that have been made from time to time with a view to increasing the efficiency of the House of Lords in matters affecting legislation.

As the Opposition largely outnumber the supporters of the Government in the House of Lords, this amendment will without a doubt, be carried. The Government having pledged itself to its supporters to deal with the House of Lords through the Commons, it was not to be expected that Lord Cairns' amendment would pass without challenge. Lord Cairns will move on behalf of the Government, that it is not expedient to proceed with the discussion until provision has been made for an effective measure of dealing with differences that may arise between the two Houses. His amendment will, it is expected, be negatived.

The action of the Opposition peers is a most counter-stroke to "C. B." who declared at the end of last year that "a way will be found by which the House of Lords may be brought into line with the opinions of the people. As things now stand the peers are finding 'the way' themselves."

The other great subject of importance of the week—the Home Rule Bill—will be the most bitterly contested measure of the session. Since the fall of the Irish Unionist party and the rise of Mr. Parnell nearly thirty years ago the Irish question has remained the most insoluble of political problems, and the despair and ruin of successive Governments.

The last two Home Rule Bills have led, either directly or indirectly, to the downfall of the last two Liberal Governments. The present Government is hoping to save itself by labelling the old policy with a new name. Nothing less than Home Rule will ever satisfy the Irish Nationalist party, on which the Government is so dependent. Their very existence is staked on the passing of Home Rule or nothing. Mr. Burrell's Bill aims at setting up in Dublin an Irish Council with full control of Irish affairs. The preponderance of the Radical element in the Commons will perhaps ensure its passage through that House, but it will throw it out but that the House of Lords will throw it out by a large or a large majority than that by which they rejected Mr. Gladstone's ill-fated measure of 1893.

GERMANY AND THE "TIMES."

In accordance with its general policy of stirring up ill-feeling between England and Germany, the "Times" Paris correspondent has recently been suggesting that a deep laid plot is under way, organised in Berlin, for the closing of the Baltic. This has been too much for the representative of Denmark in London, who writes from the Legation to the "Times" as follows:—"Sir,—Notice in the Times of to-day a second article from your Berlin correspondent headed 'The Closing of the Baltic.'"

"Will you kindly allow me to suggest that this heading, if sensational enough, is very misleading as a reference to a question of practical politics? It seems to me that there is quite a sufficient number of difficult and dangerous international questions in course of solution, and that it is not the duty of the press to avoid inventing others and impress them on the public mind. To maintain the free passage to the Baltic 'sans entrave quelconque' is the obligation accepted by Denmark in the treaty of March 14, 1857, with all European Powers; it is a recognised part of international law."

"There is not a shadow of support for the belief that any Power contemplates a change to demand which would, obviously, be a very serious undertaking. There is not a man alive in Denmark who does not regard the free passage to the Baltic as the life of the nation, and who would not be ready to sacrifice his country, his King, Government, and people alike to its salvation."

RUSSO-JAPANESE TRADE.

Japan is importing at present foreign goods to the yearly value of £40,000,000, but of this amount Russia contributes only the trifling sum of £460,000. This small amount is explained in great measure by the fact that German traders buy large quantities of Russian goods and resell them to Japan at greatly advanced prices, after having taken the trouble to mark the goods with German trade marks and then they ship the goods to Japan only on German vessels, so far as that can be done. The Japanese Consulate at St. Petersburg has drawn up a list of the articles which Japan wishes to receive directly from Russia; these articles are wheat, flour, sugar, butter, skins, raw wool, tobacco, oil, iron, iron goods, cloth, woollen stuffs, linen and cotton goods, &c. With the consent of the Ministry of Commerce a syndicate of rich Russian manufacturers is being formed with a view to keeping in Russian hands the direct supply of Russian exports to Japan. This enterprise is meeting with great opposition from German firms at St. Petersburg and at Odessa.

How to be Beautiful—Keep your complexion, Mrs. Ellet's Crème Chamois, Lait Chamois and Special Skin Tonic and Poudre Chamois will enable you to do it. Her Specialties for the Skin are the study of a lifetime. A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Sole Agents, Hongkong.

ART OF THE PERFECT WOMAN.**UNIVERSITY LECTURES ON COQUETRY.**

A university has been discovered in Paris which guarantees to turn out the "perfect woman."

It is the Université des Annales, and the opinion of its founders, Mmes. Adolphe Brisson, is that it is "one of the sanest and soundest institutions yet devised for making women still more womanly."

The Université des Annales works on original lines. In one class room a group of pretty girls will study plastic dress-making and the art of designing picturesque frocks. In the lecture hall the students will be regaled with a lecture on "Woman's Coquetry."

This novel curriculum, it is contended, will minimise the danger of the sweet girl graduates developing into the dreaded "blue stockings."

A representative of the "Express" consulted a well-known beauty culturist who has lately urged the necessity of reform in the education of women. "I entirely agree with Mmes. Brisson's methods," she said, "and if this system of education were adopted in England we should, not only have more beautiful and graceful women, but more interesting ones. Thorough knowledge of the three 'B's' is of course, necessary, but for higher mathematics I would substitute the study of 'Love and Coquetry' when desired. It is the most difficult lesson to learn in the whole world."

"That such a study is necessary can be decided if a critic will notice the expressions of the women of our country as they sit in motor-cabriolets or in the shops. Their mouths are set in a grim line, and their faces are puffed up into an expression of patient endurance. They are not, and they show it."

A lecture on "Woman's Coquetry" may sound flippant in a university and will probably call down the criticism of "blue stockings." But it is not absurd. Coquetry is a word that has been out of fashion with flirts, it has an entirely different meaning. The girl who knows the art of gentle, harmless coquetry will win friends wherever she goes.

Beauty culture and physical exercise instructors are to be found everywhere to-day, but one branch of a woman's education has been sadly neglected. There are no classes to teach the art of happiness under all circumstances, the study of "how to be a bright and amusing companion to a first husband, or the mystery of personal fascination." The university which can provide classes in all these subjects will turn out the "perfect woman."

MR. DICKEY ON THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.

Mr. Edward Dickey contributes to the "Empire Review" an article dealing with the forthcoming Hague Conference. He sets out with a quotation from Lord Palmerston, to the effect that when he was told that something ought to be done, he always knew beforehand that his informant wanted to do something at a cost of international arbitration. Upon the essential impracticability of the idea, the writer speaks forcibly:—"The principle of international Courts may be sound in theory, but it has broken down in practice, owing to the impossibility of laying taxation upon offenders against the various of the Court. Indeed the system can only work in a confederacy where one member is overwhelmingly powerful in comparison with all the others, but in that case the confederacy cannot be said to consist of independent nations, but of subordinate partners. It may be that, as the Socialists anticipate, the sentiment of nationality may hereafter cease to exist in civilised communities, and in that case associated humanity might be a common code which would have the force of law. But of this proposed substitution of collectivism for nationality there is no sign."

Continuing, Mr. Dickey says:—"I have often heard a statement that the adviser of the Hague International Tribunal predicted the occurrence of a war between Russia and England, on the occasion of the Dogger Bank outbreak. The real cause, however, of peace being preserved on this occasion by the simple fact that Russia knew she was courting certain disaster and defeat if she went to war with England, and that he latter Power considered it right or wrong, that she had not suffered the offence committed by Admiral Rozhanskiy was not the result of British policy."

Mr. Dickey is not hopeful of good results at this international gathering, holding the opinion that neither the smaller Powers nor Germany are willing to disarm. He suggests that the Hague Conference may do harm instead of good, and that it had better be postponed, in the interest of European peace.

HOW TO KEEP FIT.

A WORD ABOUT MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP, THE GREAT TREATMENT OF WEAK STOMACHS.

How to keep fit is a problem which becomes daily more difficult of solution; it is hard even to keep moderately healthy. And yet we must try to keep fit, for it is the only way to keep fit. Why that weak, weary, run-down feeling, that half-life which so many struggle under? There are two causes. The first cause is the rush we have spoken of. The second cause is that the excessive activity of the nervous system—in short the worry—drains the strength of the body; and the digestive organs, robbed of their fair share of the great life stream which should course freely through every part of your frame and weakened perhaps by hastily eaten meals and broken down under the strain. That can be altered.

STRENGTHEN YOUR DIGESTION. These digestive organs, the stomach, liver and bowels, must be assisted. More nourishment must be drawn from the food you eat, so that your whole body may have enough and to spare. Strengthen your digestive apparatus, by taking Mother Seigel's Syrup, and all food will be absorbed into your system and go to make rich, pure vitalising blood. Thus every part of your body will be fully nourished, and health must result. That is the way to be fit.

Says Mr. Albert Till, blacksmith, Royal Oak, near Marden, Kent:—"Mother Seigel's Syrup has been our family medicine for years, and we have all benefited by its use. My wife used to suffer terribly from biliousness and indigestion, with pains in her back and stomach, and wind and headache; but the Syrup quite cured her. I have taken it, and so have all my family, and as I have said, it does us all good."

Take Mother Seigel's Syrup after every meal, and you will soon be as well and fit as ever in your life.

Don't be Discouraged

Even if you have tried so many times to regain your health and energy that you are almost discouraged, TRY AGAIN. Take

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and succeed. Hall's Coca Wine is liquid life. It gives health to the sick, strength to the weak, and energy to the strong.

There is nothing so potent as Hall's Coca Wine in the treatment of debilitating diseases; nothing so stimulating to the faded body in its unequal fight against climatic conditions; nothing so valuable to the healthy man to preserve his health.

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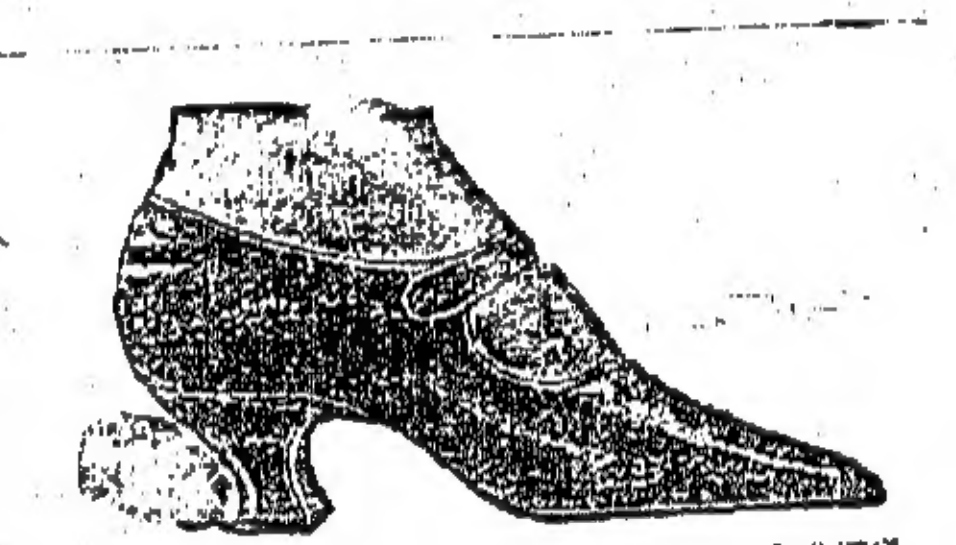
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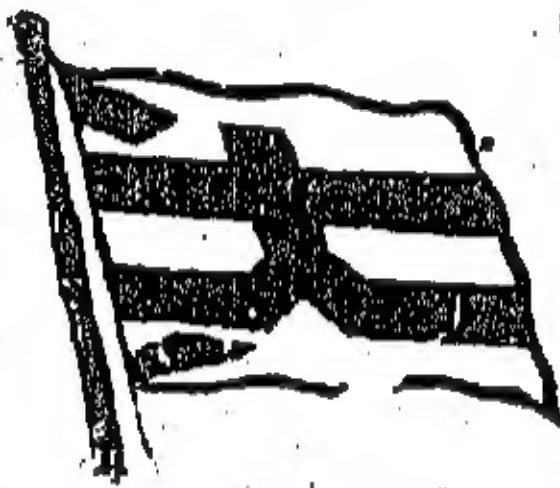
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